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Middle East Situation Report #4  
(as of 1500 EST, 30 December 1983)

LEBANON/SYRIA

The military situation was generally quiet today in Beirut and along the usual confrontation lines in the mountains, although two French soldiers were wounded in a skirmish in the capital. (Press)

According to the US Embassy in Amman, the recent meetings between Lebanese government representatives and Druze leader Junblatt resulted in a tentative agreement on the disposition of forces in the hills above Beirut. The discussions, however, did not deal with the larger issues of cooperation or reconciliation between the Druze and Christians. Junblatt reportedly is in a self-confident and uncompromising frame of mind.

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Muslim sit-ins and strikes protesting Israeli actions in southern Lebanon increased today as the Israeli Army closed the Awwali River bridges which link the south with the rest of Lebanon. (Press)

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According to part of a United Nations report obtained by the US Consulate in Jerusalem, pro-Iranian Shias in Baalabakk have infiltrated all their captured Lebanese Army vehicles into

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[redacted]  
southern Beirut, possibly to be followed by a consignment of weapons and other equipment. [redacted]

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PERSIAN GULF

The US Consulate in Bombay received a letter informing it that our missions in Dubai and Kuwait will be attacked by terrorists sailing on an Indian ship scheduled to depart Bombay on 31 December and arrive in Dubai on 5 January. The Consulate has notified Bombay police who promise to take appropriate action. [redacted]

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The threat is plausible. Bombay is used by the Iranian-supported Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain as a way station for new recruits on their way to Iran for training. [redacted]

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[redacted]  
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The French Foreign Ministry's desk officer for Iran has informed our Embassy in Paris that the expulsion of Iranians and closing of the Iranian Islamic Center earlier this week was in response to the series of closing of French offices in Iran in recent months. He added, however, that the French government had wanted to move against the center anyway because it had apparently become a staging ground for possible terrorist activities in France. [redacted]

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The War

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Iraq claims to have downed two Iranian F-5 fighter planes today. (Press, [redacted])

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